

From: Allan G. Osborne
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

5829 NE 198th Place

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I encourage you to support the recent antitrust settlement Microsoft has reached with the DOJ. I can only imagine how much this lawsuit has cost the little people in this country -- not Bill Gates, but the people throughout the country, especially those who are in pension funds.

Furthermore, I feel this attack on success is forcing Microsoft to agree to terms that go far beyond the original scope of the lawsuit so it can continue to develop software undisturbed by the government.

As an example, Microsoft has agreed to provide the code so competitors can alter Windows to remove Microsoft products and to install competing products. Furthermore, Microsoft has agreed to disclose various interfaces to its competitors -- a first in an anti-trust settlement.

Further, Microsoft has agreed to not force third parties to distribute or promote Windows exclusively or as a fixed percentage; nor will Microsoft prevent computer makers or software developers from developing competing operating systems or software that runs on competing operating system.

For these reasons, I encourage you to support this settlement as good for the consumer, and so that Microsoft can return to the business of developing good software.

Sincerely,

Allan Osborne